

Application No. 09/854,435

Page 2

Amend the paragraph at page 13, lines 14 - 19 to read as follows:

B2
With respect to the individual "soft" unit, in the definitions of R³, x is preferably 2 to 12, more preferably 2 to 6 and most preferably 2; y is preferably 4 to 12, more preferably 4 to 6 and most preferably 6; R⁸ is preferably hydrogen; R⁹ and R¹⁰ are preferably identical, more preferably an unbranched C₄-C₁₂ alkylene and most preferably an unbranched C₆-C₁₂ alkylene; R¹¹ is preferably hydrogen and R¹² is preferably methyl.

Delete the paragraph at page 14, lines 14 - 29.

Amend the paragraph at page 17, lines 18 - 24 to read as follows:

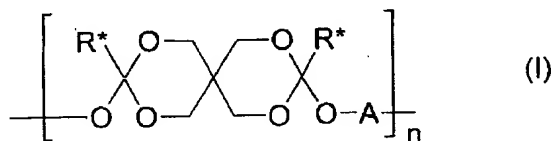
B3
The polyorthoesters may also be prepared by reaction of the diketene acetal with the chosen diol(s) under similar reaction conditions, but in the presence of a "chain stopper" (a reagent that terminates polyorthoester chain formation). Suitable chain stoppers are C₅₋₂₀ alkanols, especially C₁₀₋₂₀ alkanols. The chain stopper is preferably present in from 1 - 20 mol% based on the diketene acetal. The polyorthoesters thus prepared have lower molecular weights with a lower molecular weight dispersion than those prepared by the reaction of the diketene acetals with only diols.

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 15 and 16, without prejudice.

Amend claims 1, 5 - 8, 12 - 14, 17, and 18 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A polyorthoester of formula I:



where:

R* is a C₁₋₄ alkyl;

n is an integer of at least 5; and

A is R¹, R², R³, or R⁴, where